

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)

An image forming method comprising:  
forming a toner image by developing with a developer containing a toner a latent image on a photoreceptor comprising a layer formed on or over a substrate;  
transferring the toner image to a recording medium on which the toner image is recorded;  
fixing the toner image; and  
removing the toner remained on the photoreceptor by a cleaning device;  
wherein  
the average circular degree of the toner is not less than 0.94;  
the toner contains a wax comprising an ester of a carboxylic acid having carbon atoms of not less than 16 or an ester of an alcohol having carbon atoms of not less than 16;  
the toner contains a metal salt of fatty acid in an amount of from 0.01 to 10% by weight;

the metal salt of fatty acid contains at least one of aluminum stearate, calcium stearate, potassium stearate, magnesium stearate, barium stearate, lithium stearate, zinc stearate, copper stearate, lead stearate, nickel stearate, strontium stearate, cobalt stearate, cadmium stearate, zinc oleate, manganese oleate, iron oleate, cobalt oleate, copper oleate, magnesium oleate, lead oleate, zinc palmitate, cobalt palmitate, copper palmitate, magnesium palmitate, aluminum palmitate, calcium palmitate, zinc linolate, cobalt linolate, calcium linolate, zinc ricinolate, cadmium ricinolate and lead caproate;

the layer contacts the toner in the developing step;

the layer contains hydrophobic silica particles having a number average of primary particle diameter in the range of about 1 nm or more and less than 100 nm; and

the surface roughness Ra of the layer is not less than 0.02  $\mu\text{m}$  and less than 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ , the cleaning device comprises an elastic rubber cleaning blade or a brush roller, and removing the toner remained on the photoreceptor is carried out by touching either of the cleaning blade or the brush roller to the photoreceptor,

the pressure of the elastic rubber blade to the photoreceptor is from 5 g/cm to 30 g/cm.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the cleaning device is the a cleaning blade that touches the photoreceptor.

7. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 6, wherein the cleaning blade is disposed so as to contact to the photoreceptor in the counter direction to the rotating direction of the photoreceptor.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the cleaning device is a brush roller that touches the photoreceptor with fiber and the thickness of the fiber of the brush roller is from 6 denier to 30 denier.

10. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the cleaning device is a brush roller that touches the photoreceptor with fiber and the density of the fiber of the brush roller is from  $4.5 \times 10^2$  f/cm<sup>2</sup> to  $15.5 \times 10^2$  f/cm<sup>2</sup>.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner has an average circular degree of from 0.96 to 0.99.

14. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the standard deviation of the circular degree is not more than 0.10.

15. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the wax contains at least one of pentaerythrytol tetrastearate, pentaerythrytol tetrabehenate, pentaerythrytol dibehenate, pentaerythrytol tribehenate, neopentyl glycol dibehenate, a condensation product of nonanediol, sebacic acid and

stearyl alcohol, and a condensation compound of decanediol, azelaic acid and stearyl alcohol.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

forming a plurality of latent images on a plurality of photoreceptors, each of said latent images formed on one of said photoreceptors and each of said photoreceptors is a photoreceptor of Claim 1,

forming a plurality of toner images by developing each of said latent images with the toner of Claim 1; and

transferring the toner images onto the recording medium.

19. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the layer contains the hydrophobic silica particles having a number average primary particle diameter of from 1 nm to less than 100 nm.

20. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises an elastic rubber blade and removing the toner remained on the photoreceptor is carried out by touching the elastic rubber blade to the photoreceptor.

21. (New)

The image forming method of claim 6, wherein the blade is an elastic rubber blade and the pressure of the elastic rubber blade to the photoreceptor is from 5 g/cm to 30 g/cm.

22. (New)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the metal salt of fatty acid contains at least one of aluminum stearate, calcium stearate, potassium stearate, magnesium stearate, barium stearate, lithium stearate, zinc stearate, copper stearate, lead stearate, nickel stearate, strontium stearate, cobalt stearate, cadmium stearate, zinc oleate, manganese oleate, iron oleate, cobalt oleate, copper oleate, magnesium oleate, lead oleate, zinc palmitate, cobalt palmitate, copper palmitate, magnesium palmitate, aluminum palmitate, zinc linolate, cobalt linolate, calcium

linolate, zinc ricinolate, cadmium ricinolate and lead caproate.